

and women had come of age. We understood the foolishness of combat, the recklessness of armed struggle, the uselessness of combat. We had built institutions to resolve our international differences. While cultures, faiths, and languages might differ, there at least was emerging some common understanding of the principles of governance, justice, and self-respect.

It would appear that our enthusiasm for a new time was either misplaced or poorly timed. Not only do these opening years of the 21st century not appear to be an improvement on all we experienced in the 20th century, but they look remarkably similar to the 18th or 19th centuries.

All human progress is not forward. All nations do not advance at the same speed. All cultures have not learned history the same. Yet we are patient and hopeful. If anything characterizes the people of the United States, it is our boundless optimism. From this terrible experience, perhaps we can at least take this to salvage those many years still remaining in the 21st century to make our time different. In the destruction of al-Qaeda and the Taliban, a message will at least be received by those who would harbor terrorists or those who would collaborate in these actions: Our kindness is not weakness; our laws do not provide you opportunities to take advantage of our justice; we are strong, we are resolved, and we are determined to defend ourselves, our children, and our future, as every generation before us. We are a good and a great people, but we are a strong and determined people. We have our place in the future, our role in the world, and it will not be compromised. It will not be taken from us.

Much of this planet has decided upon some common norms of justice and conduct, to conduct ourselves in peace within institutions. All nations are welcome to join in them according to their own traditions, their own laws, and their own faiths, but the age when nations or organizations would be permitted to operate against all human experience and all rules of decency are over.

We have only perhaps begun to defeat one terrorist organization in one country, but surely the lessons from this experience are unmistakable and are heard on every corner of the globe.

That is my hope and my prayer for this Thanksgiving. Godspeed to every American soldier wherever he or she may be on this holiday. May you be home for Christmas; may we not have to call upon you again. But if we do, may you serve with the same distinction, courage, and valor that every American has seen in your actions in these last few weeks.

THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I want to quickly discuss recent news that U.S. forces are engaged on the ground in Afghanistan. Though it isn't yet certain the details of this report, if this is a new assault in our war on terrorism or whether this is the continuation of our current operations, I would like to raise the attention of everyone to the outstanding service and dedication that our military men and women are showing in the war on terrorism. It is their sacrifice and selfless service that has taken the war on terrorism to the terrorists themselves. As we have seen since last week, our military is fully engaged and we are seeing the successes of their many missions. As I have always said, the backbone of our military is not technology or weapons, but the people. Our brave military men and women are waging this fight today and we need to remember them and their families in this difficult time.

COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE KEPT THE SENATE SAFE AND RUNNING IN A DIFFICULT MONTH

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, yesterday marked 1 month since the letter containing anthrax was opened in my office. Being at "ground zero" in the largest bioterrorism attack ever on U.S. soil has been unsettling and frustrating for many of us. As our Nation prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving, though, there is much for which we in the Senate family have to be grateful.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful that the members of my staff who were exposed to anthrax continue to be in good health and good spirits and they continue to come to work every day, inspiring our entire staff with their courage and dedication. I am grateful, as well, that the other members of our Senate family who were exposed also continue to be in good health. I am grateful to the doctors and scientists who have worked long hours to protect Americans from this threat, not just on Capitol Hill, but in Washington, Trenton, New York and even as far away as Kansas City.

I am particularly grateful to a special group of people who have kept the Senate safe and running during this unprecedented time. At the top of that list is Al Lenhardt, the Senate's Sergeant at Arms, and his staff. If there was ever a case of the right person, in the right job, at the right time, it is Al Lenhardt. On September 11, Al had been Sergeant at Arms for exactly 1 week. I don't believe he has taken a day off work since then. The first Saturday morning after the anthrax letter was opened, he was at work in the Capitol, surrounded by scientists and investigators. He had been at work until

late the night before. That morning, someone asked him: "If you had it to do all over again, do you think you'd still take this job?" Without a moment's hesitation, he replied: "Absolutely. To be in a position to serve your country—what better job could there be?"

Al Lenhardt is helped in that job by an equally dedicated staff. In addition to keeping us safe, for the last month, the men and women of the Sergeant at Arms Office have played an indispensable role in keeping the Senate running. Only once before—when the British burned the Capitol in 1814—have so many Senators been displaced from their offices. The staff of the Sergeant at Arms Office and the Rules Committee have been faced with a huge logistical challenge, and they have responded amazingly.

Senator DODD and the Rules Committee Staff Director, Kennie Gill, deserve special thanks for the amazing job they did relocating displaced Senate offices. Since October 18, Kennie, the Rules Committee staff and the Sergeant at Arms' Office have set up 129 temporary offices within the Capitol, in the Russell and Dirksen Buildings and at Postal Square. They re-established our computer network.

This one task alone involved dropping 650 new LAN lines, laying over a mile of copper cabling, and nearly half a mile of fiber cabling, creating 216 new network protocol addresses for temporary PC locations, opening 73 routers between Senate offices and creating a new Senate fiber network. In addition, Rules Committee and Sergeant at Arms staff attached 700 PCs and 110 printers to the Senate computer network. They have kept our telecommunications system up and running by connecting nearly 600 new telephone lines, 200 new voice mail boxes and 64 fax machines.

Members of the Rules Committee and Sergeant at Arms staffs, and the vendors who support them, have worked for weeks straight without a day off. They have worked nights and weekends, putting in thousands of hours of overtime. They have refused to allow the largest bioterrorism attack in our Nation's history to stop the work of the Senate, and for that we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

The 1,400 men and women of the Capitol Police force are also working a lot of overtime. Since September 11, they have all been putting in 12-hour days, 6 days a week. That is a minimum. Sometimes they pull double shifts. They work through colds, weekends, holidays, and their childrens' birthdays. They remain at their posts, alert.

If you had asked me a month ago whether the Senate could carry on in the middle of a bioterrorism attack, with 50 Senators locked out of their offices, I might have been a little skeptical. But Al Lenhardt and his staff,